

1. VIREC's Internet Website Address has Changed

Please update your Bookmarks to the new VIREC website address: www.virec.research.va.gov.

2. Cyber Security and Privacy Training for FY2006 due by June 30

The Secretary of Veterans Affairs issued a reminder that the annual General Privacy Training and VA Cyber Security Awareness Training for 2006 are due by June 30. All employees are required to sign a Statement of Commitment and Understanding. By signing this statement, employees confirm their understanding of the training, the consequences for noncompliance, and their commitment to protecting sensitive and confidential information in the Department of Veterans Affairs.

The VHA provides five current offerings to all VA employees and related VA workers to help avoid delays caused by congestion on available sources: (1) VA Cyber Security Awareness FY06 - Web/Computer-Based; (2) Privacy: It's Everyone's Business – Video; (3) VA Privacy Awareness - Web/Computer-Based; (4) VHA Privacy Policy FY06 - Web/Computer-Based; (5) VHA Provider Privacy Training – Video.

VA employees can go to the VA Learning Catalog at <http://vaww.sites.lrn.va.gov/vacatalog> to access any of the Web courses or to find out how to view the videos. Type "Security Alert" in the keyword search and hit "Go." You should contact your information Security Officer or Privacy Officer if you have questions or need further information.

3. June 20 Clinical Informatics Cyber Seminar Features Evaluation and Clinical Informatics

This month, VIREC and the Center of Excellence on Implementing Evidence-Based Practice feature Dr. Annette Valenta in the Cyber Seminar on Clinical Informatics. Dr. Valenta is Professor and Department Head, Biomedical and Health Information Sciences, College of Applied Health Sciences, University of Illinois at Chicago. Dr. Valenta's research assesses provider readiness to work with computerized decision support and formulates recommendations for design of computerized decision support based on social and organizational factors. The seminar takes place on Tuesday, June 20 at 12 noon ET

WebEx hosts recordings of past Cyber Seminars for researchers who are unable to participate in live sessions (<http://hsrdtraining.webex.com>). VIREC provides a convenient link to these recordings of past seminars from the "VIREC Cyber Seminars" page on the VIREC website (<http://www.virec.research.va.gov/EducationResources/Seminars/Cyberseminars.htm>).

4. Data Sources Outside the VA

VIREC added a new page to its website that lists various data sources outside the VA. These databases cover traumatic head and brain injury, toxic and hazardous substances, real-time tracking of injured, and a broad scope of personnel, manpower, training and financial data. Links on the new webpage take users directly to information about the data sources. Look under What's New on the VIREC homepage: www.virec.research.va.gov. VIREC staff would like to thank Theresa Pape, DrPH for her contributions to this new webpage.

5. New VHA Directive for Surgical Case Coding

The Veterans Health Administration (VHA) released a new directive (2006-0035) for International Classification of Diseases 9th Revision Clinical Modification (ICD-9-CM) and Current Procedural Terminology, 4th Edition (CPT-4) surgical code assignments. The VHA policy ensures ICD-9-CM and CPT-4 surgical coding accuracy within the surgical package for each VA health care facility. The directive is available at: <http://www1.va.gov/vhapublications/publications.cfm?pub=1>.

6. New HERC Guidebook Released: Researchers' Guide to ALBCC

The Health Economic Resource Center (HERC) released a guidebook that provides information on how the Account Level Budget Cost Centers (ALBCC) is created, how to access ALBCC, and the variables included. Researchers who use microcosting methods to estimate the cost of health care may find data in the ALBCC particularly useful. Go to the HERC website for more information: <http://www.herc.research.med.va.gov/home/default.asp>.

7. New Issue of DSS Newsletter Available

The Decision Support Office (DSO) released the April-May issue of *DSS Matters*. This issue includes articles on data accuracy (standards, workload, and costs); using Event Capture to capture workload that is not recorded in any other software program; and new and enhanced DSS reports. VA researchers can access *DSS Matters* on the VA Intranet.

PLEASE FEEL FREE TO DISSEMINATE TO COLLEAGUES! *Data Issues Briefs* are developed by the staff of the VA Information Resource Center (VIREC) for the purpose of informing and updating VA researchers on current and pending happenings and changes regarding health data, databases, and medical informatics. *Data Issues Briefs* are produced monthly. All issues are available on the VIREC Web site at <http://www.virec.research.va.gov>. If you wish to receive email notification of future issues or have any suggestions or comment about the *Data Issues Briefs*, please send an e-mail message to the VIREC at virec@va.gov or call (708) 202-2413.